



Northeastern Indiana Wetland/Grassland Restoration Program



This program provides technical and financial assistance to help you restore wetlands on your property.

Program Highlights:

- ' Voluntary participation.
- ' Landowner retains full ownership.
- ' Landowner retains full rights to control public access.
- ' Up to 100 % cost-share for wetland restorations.
- ' Up to 100 % cost-share for native grassland restorations in association with existing or restored wetlands.

What Types of Areas Can Be Restored As Wetlands?

In northeastern Indiana, many of our historical wetlands were depressional areas that were drained with drainage ditches, field tile, or modifications to surface drainage. Today, these sites typically show themselves as slow-drying areas in crop fields, pastures, or woodlands. Many of the beneficial functions of these former wetlands can be restored by plugging drainage ditches, cutting field tile, or creating low levees.



The goal of the program is to restore the functional values of the wetland, not to provide deep-water ponds for fishing. Restored wetlands will typically average 1 to 4 feet in depth and will be designed not to interfere with the drainage of neighboring

lands. In fact, restoration of wetlands on your property can help reduce potential flooding problems to you and your adjacent landowners.

What Are Native Grasslands?

Native grasslands are composed of plant species that were found in the region at the time of European settlement. In northeastern Indiana, native grasslands typically include warm season grasses such as: big bluestem, indiagrass and



switchgrass, and a mixture of forbs such as: black-eyed susan, butterflyweed, coneflowers, blazing star, bundle flower, coreopsis, partridge pea, and prairie dock.

In addition to their beauty, tall native grasses have many benefits, especially when found in association with wetlands. Native grasses have extensive fibrous root systems that hold soil, slow runoff, and control erosion. As such, native grasses

serve as a filter strip for water entering a wetland. Native grasses are also important nesting and wintering habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including waterfowl , pheasant, quail, and grassland songbirds.

What Do My Neighbors Say About Wetland Restoration?

Landowners restore wetlands for a number of reasons. Most, however, share a belief that allowing some part of their land to return to its pre-drained state will provide wildlife and water quality benefits beyond just the few acres restored.

“I guess I would say that not only do we have something of beauty, and good habitat, and flood control, the most important thing is that the water is clean and clear when it finally enters the river.”

Jerome Sponseller
Kosciusko County

“I feel that the wetlands are being lost in Indiana and all over the world too fast. We’re losing important wildlife habitat and other values and this program offers a chance to get some of it back.”

Keith Rondot
Whitley County

Who Do I Contact?

Elkhart County

Linda Byer

Kankakee FWA
4320 W. Toto Road
P.O. Box 77
North Judson, IN 46366
(574) 896-3572

Kosciusko County

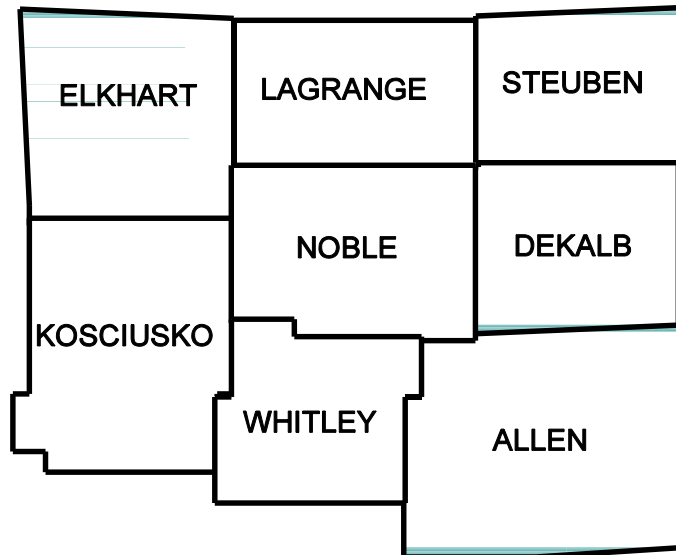
Randy Millar

Tri-County FWA
8432 North 850 East
Syracuse, IN 46567
(574) 834-4461

Allen County

Patrick Mayer

Huntington Reservoir
517 North Warren Road
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 468-2515



LaGrange, Steuben, Noble, Dekalb, and Whitley Counties

Alger VanHoey

Pigeon River FWA
8310 East 300 North
Box 71
Mongo, IN 46771
(260) 367-2186

Additional Information May Be Obtained From:

Jeff Kiefer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403
(812) 334-4261 ext. 212

Gary Langell

Division of Fish and Wildlife
553 E. Miller Drive
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Rick Ward

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Kankakee FWA
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North Judson, IN 46366
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Russ Terry

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The Northeastern Indiana Wetland/Grassland Restoration Program is a joint venture between The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. with assistance from other organizations including: Pheasants Forever, Inc., USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and participating Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts